

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated DNA encoding a hek-L protein capable of binding hek, wherein said DNA comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 80% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of nucleotides 83-796, 83-745, 140-796, and 140-745 of SEQ ID NO:1.

2. An isolated DNA according to claim 1, wherein said DNA comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of nucleotides 83-796, 83-745, 140-796, and 140-745 of SEQ ID NO:1.

3. An isolated DNA encoding a hek-L protein capable of binding hek, wherein said DNA comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 80% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of nucleotides 28-630, 28-573, 94-630, and 94-573 of SEQ ID NO:3.

4. An isolated DNA according to claim 3, wherein said DNA comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of nucleotides 28-630, 28-573, 94-630 and 94-573 of SEQ ID NO:3.

5. An isolated DNA encoding a human hek-L protein capable of binding hek, wherein said hek-L comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1-202 and 1-219 of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 1-160 and 1-179 of SEQ ID NO:4.

6. An isolated DNA according to claim 5, wherein said hek-L comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1-202 and 1-219 of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 1-160 and 1-179 of SEQ ID NO:4.

7. An isolated DNA encoding a fusion protein comprising a hek-L and an Fc polypeptide, wherein said hek-L comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1-202 of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 1-160 of SEQ ID NO:4.

8. An expression vector comprising a DNA according to claim 1.

